

Defends Big Fee for Work At Hog Island

Head of Contracting Firm Declares \$6,000,000 Is Reasonable

Denies Salaries Affect Patriotism

Senators Inquire Why Manager Was Raised to \$30,000 a Year

(Staff Correspondence)

WASHINGTON, March 5.—The main question before the Senate Commerce Committee in the Hog Island investigation to-day seemed to be whether a man could be a patriot and also draw a big salary from the Emergency Fleet Corporation. Senators Vandaman and Nelson took the negative view and President Dwight P. Robinson of the American International Shipbuilding Corporation upheld the affirmative.

Mr. Robinson was on the stand throughout the session, and he gave particular attention to the question of the contract fee and of the salaries paid. He defended the fee of the American International for conducting the Hog Island work as the government's agent—the same being approximately \$6,000,000—as reasonable, and explained that the fee system of contracting was a common one with Stone & Webster, in which concern he is a partner.

He mentioned a number of contracts with corporations that exactly parallel the contract with the Emergency Fleet Corporation, except that in the latter case the fee is relatively lower. The fee paid to the American International Shipbuilding Corporation is divided between the American International Corporation, Stone & Webster and the New York Shipbuilding Company.

Most Salaries Unchanged
As to salaries, Mr. Robinson explained that, with two exceptions, all of the Stone & Webster men who have been transferred to the American International payroll are getting the same salaries that they would have been getting from Stone & Webster at this time. The two exceptions are Walter Goodenough, general manager, and Major Hamilton, purchasing agent, though the latter was for an interval in the army quartermaster's department. In both

cases Mr. Robinson held that the exceptional nature of the work and the capability of the men justified the increased salaries.

Senator Johnson brought out the fact that, though Mr. Goodenough was formerly receiving \$12,000 and a bonus that made his income from Stone & Webster about \$18,000, he is now receiving \$25,000 on the government payroll, and still receives the Stone & Webster bonus of \$5,600 or \$6,000, so that his total pay is now around \$30,000. Mr. Robinson took the entire responsibility for Mr. Goodenough's salary, and conceded that the latter would have done the work at any salary.

Defends Big Salaries

He was of the opinion that if the Emergency Fleet Corporation reduced these or other salaries the American International would absorb the differences and continue to pay the men the same income, as he did not think that reducing salaries was a means of speeding up the production of ships.

In answer to the point that frequently has been made that under the contract the American International, while it could not profit from lavish expenditures, had no incentive to keep down the cost of the work, Mr. Robinson insisted that it did have such an incentive. If the company should exercise its option at the termination of the contract to purchase the plant from the government, the price it would have to pay would depend to some extent, he thought, on what the plant had cost the government. Senator Johnson was of the opinion that in an appraisal the cost of the work would not be an element.

Senator Nelson refused to accept without reservation Mr. Robinson's testimony, on the point of patriotism, that Stone & Webster, as they had, with a patriotic purpose, done large jobs for the government, one at Hog Island and the other at Watertown, N. Y., the former involving the expenditure of more than \$4,000,000 without any profit or compensation whatever at actual cost. It seemed too rare and good to be true, but Mr. Robinson asserted that these contracts had been entered into with that understanding—that the firm simply volunteered its services.

The Senators were interested in inquiring whether any persons holding stock in the American International were interested in Hog Island sub-contracts or in concerns supplying materials.

Mr. Robinson said that Frederick Holbrook, of the firm of Holbrook, Cabot & Rollins, which has the contract for the outfitting piers at Hog Island, also \$1,600,000, was also a vice-president of the American International Corporation proper, but that the delicate question involved in this double relationship had been taken up with the Emergency Fleet Corporation before the sub-contract was let.

The General Electric Company has the contract for the turbine engines for the Hog Island ships, and C. A. Coffin, of that company, is also a vice-president of the American International. The Westinghouse Company is the only other company in America capable of supplying the turbines, and Guy E. Tapp, of that company, is also a director of the American International, so that a double relationship was inevitable in this respect. These were the only two cases of the kind that the Senators that Mr. Robinson knew of.

"We have used the same degree of honesty and fidelity in this work as if we were doing it for ourselves," declared Mr. Robinson, who has throughout a vigorous and non-apologetic witness.

Appeal to the Press

Senator Johnson created a little stir just before adjournment by asking Mr. Robinson whether he was responsible for telegrams newspaper men had received from the American International Corporation urging them to attend the hearing to-day. Mr. Robinson answered that he did not even know that such telegrams had been sent. A copy will be placed in the record to-morrow, when the investigation will be resumed. It reads as follows:

"At 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon in the room of the Senate Committee on Commerce the investigation of the Hog Island shipyard will be continued. The principal witness will be D. P. Robinson, who is in actual charge of the operations at the yard as president of the American International Shipbuilding Corporation, a subsidiary of the American International Corporation. He will be followed by other witnesses. We ask that your paper give the hearing the widest publicity consistent with its news value and in consideration of the fact that the corporation against which criticism has been made is entitled by the law of fair play to have an opportunity of answering the attacks, so that the truth may be shown. The corporation has absolutely nothing to conceal. It welcomes the opportunity to make public its record. It wants to show to the world that the efforts have been and are being made to supply the most pressing national need—ships."

"AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION."

Goethals Buys Option On Boston Men's Wool

Government Is Expected to Take Entire Holdings of Trade Association

(Staff Correspondence)

WASHINGTON, March 5.—Quartermaster General Goethals to-day purchased an option on the entire wool holdings of the Boston Wool Trade Association after a conference with a committee representing the association. It is expected that the government will take advantage of this option, which expires Saturday.

No details of the terms offered by the Boston men could be secured at the quartermaster's general's department. It is understood, however, that the dealers quoted the market price of July 31 last, less 5 per cent.

Much of the wool offered is in storage in South America and in Australia. The question of tonnage for moving this wool to the United States has not been settled, it was stated at the War Department to-day. However, if the government purchases the wool, it is anticipated the Shipping Board will provide sufficient tonnage.

The committee which conferred with General Goethals to-day consisted of Charles T. Cross, of the Charles T. Cross Company; Robert Studley, of the Studley Emery Company; Walter Wright, of Wright & Bros.; and Frank Hallowell, of Hallowell, Jones & Donald.

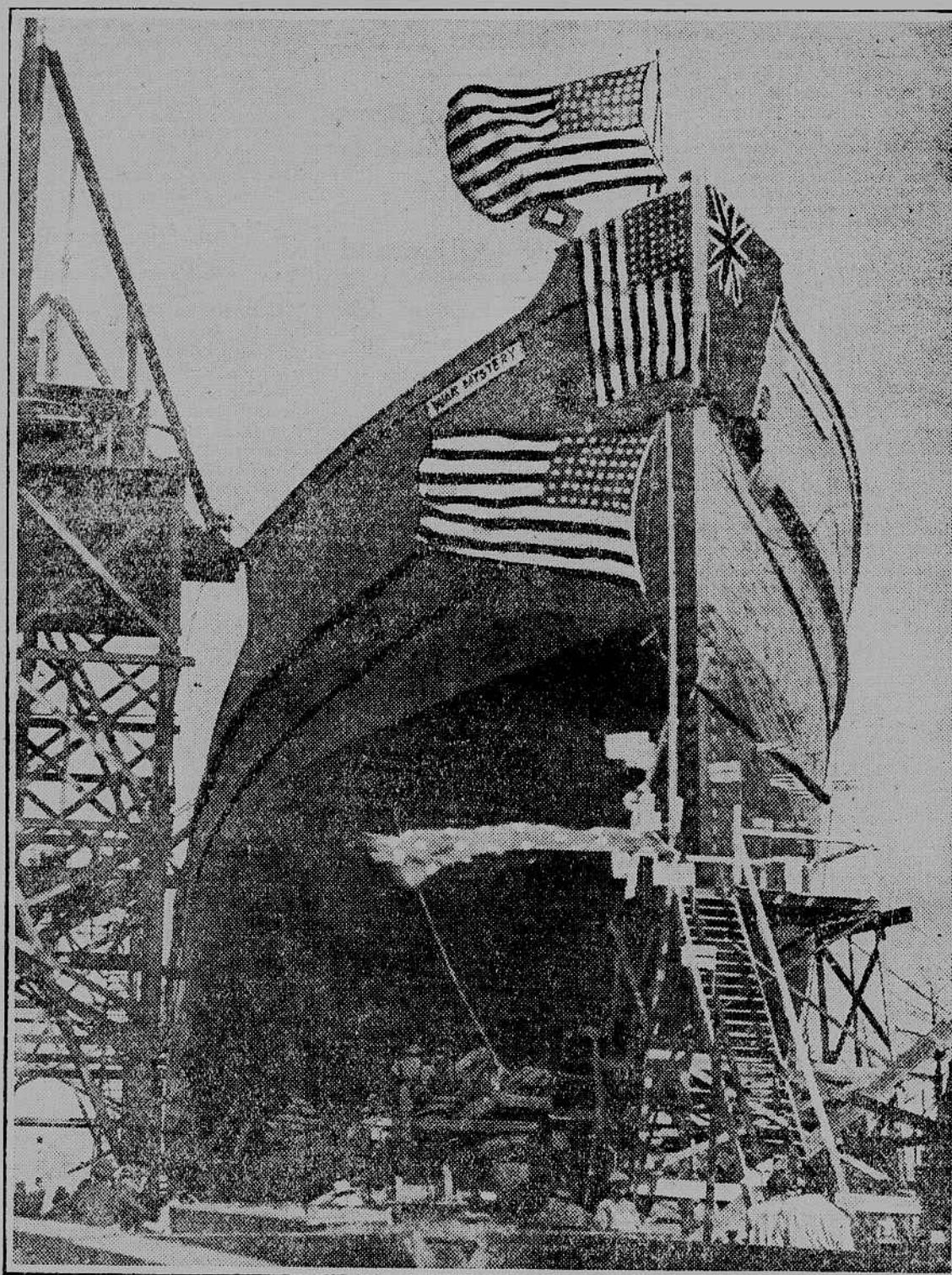
Autoist Whose Car Killed

Man Held for Manslaughter

KEARNY, N. J., March 5.—William Bacheller, of 42 Wilcox Place, East Orange, N. J., who was driving the automobile which killed Oscar Sandholm, of 248 West 145th Street, Manhattan, Saturday night, was held on a charge of manslaughter by Police Judge Wimmer this afternoon. In the car at the time the accident occurred were City Clerk Eagen, Commissioner of Safety Brennan and Frederick Stone, secretary to another of the commissioners.

Testimony was given to prove that the automobile was traveling at a high rate of speed when it struck Sandholm. The victim of the accident was killed almost instantly.

BIG WOODEN SHIP FOR BRITAIN BUILT IN U. S. A.



Down in Texas (location withheld) the War Mystery, first of six vessels of this advanced type, has taken the water for the Cunard Line. She is here seen just before being released from the ways. The War Mystery is all wood and is of 5,000 tons.

Disloyal Sergeant Is Sentenced to 30 Years in Prison

William Nimke Found Guilty of Unpatriotic Utterances

AYER, Mass., March 5.—William Nimke, of Torrington, Conn., a sergeant in Company E, 301st Engineers, at Camp Devens, was given a thirty-year sentence to-day for unpatriotic utterances. He was tried by a general court martial February 5.

Nimke was taken to Fort Jay, N. Y., immediately to begin his sentence.

Nimke was tried on three counts, on two of which he was found guilty. In one of these he was charged with saying: "If I am put in charge of a party on the other side I will surrender to the Germans, no matter what their strength may be." On another occasion he said: "I will fight for the United States so long as I am kept on this side of the Atlantic, but if I am sent to the other side I will act independently."

It was alleged in the third count, of which he was found not guilty, that he had said his father and brothers would take up arms against this country if he was sent to Europe.

The case had attracted wide attention. Announcement of Sergeant Nimke's arrest was withheld by military authorities for some time, and it was not until officers had investigated the case that he was summoned before the court martial for trial. Friends at Torrington, in letters sent here, declared that although he was impulsive by nature there never had been any apparent reason to doubt his loyalty.

Before the findings of the court martial had been reported officially to Brigadier General William Weigel, acting commander at Camp Devens, a report was published that Nimke had been found guilty and sentenced to thirty-five years imprisonment. A board of inquiry was ordered to investigate the source of this report.

Aliens in Service Will Be Stationed At Insular Posts

WASHINGTON, March 5.—Officers and men in the army who are of enemy nationality, but of whose loyalty there is no question, will not be permitted to serve on the battle fronts, but will be detailed to insular posts where their regiments are ordered to France.

The War Department made this announcement to-day. A recent case of the kind was that of Captain Franz J. Feiler, chaplain of a regular regiment, who went with his regiment to France. He is of German birth and speaks with a marked German accent, although he has been in the army since 1909. No doubt has been cast upon his loyalty, but it has been decided by General Pershing that the feelings of the French authorities must be considered and no man of enemy nationality be included in his forces, even though he is personally satisfied to have him. Chaplain Feiler, therefore, was sent back and assigned to duty at Fort Shafter, Hawaiian Islands.

Many regular army non-commissioned officers and privates are of German or Austrian birth and have failed to take out naturalization papers. When the board of inquiry was ordered to investigate the source of this report, it was found that these men were transferred to regiments in the insular possessions.

The War Department feels that this is no reflection on the transferred men. It has no doubt of their readiness to serve the United States wholeheartedly wherever they may be sent.

I. W. W. Member Confesses Arson And Poisoning to Aid Germany

Enemy Alien Tells of Burning \$1,000,000 Lumber Yard, Farm House and Barn and Killing Cattle—He Implicates Other Men of International Organization

Men of German birth and nationality are doing their bit for the Fatherland in the ranks of the California I. W. W. organization by aiding these mad contents in burning industrial plants and otherwise terrorizing the country. This has been established by the recent confession of Fritz Hagerman, an enemy alien, who in company with other members of the I. W. W. burned the Red River Lumber Company's yard at Westwood, Cal., causing damage estimated at \$1,000,000.

Hagerman in his confession also admits that he has burned a farm house and has poisoned many cattle in the West in the last three years. A portion of the transcript of his testimony before government officials in San Francisco follows:

Q.—How much money did you get out of this fire proposition? A.—The driver of the car gave me \$75.

Q.—Are you not on your way to Westwood to destroy the Red River Lumber Company's lumber? A.—Yes.

Q.—Who sent you on this mission? A.—The I. W. W.

Q.—Where are your I. W. W. receipts? A.—I lost them.

Q.—What is your nationality? A.—German.

Q.—You feel now that the German government should win this war? A.—Yes.

Q.—If you could by any means destroy property enough of the United States of America so as to win this war for the Germans would you do it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Then you are an enemy of the United States of America? A.—Yes.

Q.—And you and a man named — destroyed property in 1917? A.—Yes.

Q.—Was — an I. W. W.? A.—Yes.

Q.—This property was destroyed at Westwood, Cal.? What property was it you destroyed there? A.—It was a farm house and a large barn filled with hay.

Q.—Have you in the last three years poisoned any cattle in California, Idaho or Washington, or set any poison where cattle could get it? A.—Yes.

Q.—Who was with you at this time? A.—A fellow who called himself —.

Q.—Where is this man — now? A.—Working in —.

Q.—Now, the statement you have made to Mr. Julian and myself you are willing to admit is true? A.—Yes.

(Signed), FRITZ HAGERMAN.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20th day of February, 1918.

GROVER C. JULIAN, Notary Public.

from \$3,000 to \$20,000 were made during the last several months.

Several hundred men called to ask for descriptions of property for sale, bringing their check-books along.

Among the notable properties taken over are those belonging to Count von Bernstorff, wife of the former German Ambassador, who was Miss Jeanne Luckeneyer, of this city, amounting to \$200,000, and of Countess Szechenyi, formerly Miss Gladys Vanderbilt, said to be valued at \$1,000,000.

Bible Students Called Pacifists

PASSAIC, N. J., March 5.—There was a lively ten minutes this afternoon when the city commissioners met here to consider the application of the International Bible Students' League for a permit to hold Sunday night motion picture shows. The application had been signed by Henry Siebert, president of the organization. He appeared in person before the commissioners.

The commissioners forced Siebert to admit that one of the members of the league had been taken forcibly to Camp Dix because he wouldn't go overseas when drafted. Then they voted unanimously to refuse the permit and put themselves on record as believing the league to be a pacifist organization.

Aldermen to Hold Hearing On Public Ownership Bill

The Wagner-Donohue municipal ownership bill will be the subject of a public hearing before the Committee on State Legislation of the Board of Aldermen in the Aldermanic Chamber, City Hall, Friday, at 2 p. m.

The bill empowers cities to buy, acquire and operate public utilities, and provides that this city may, by resolution of the Board of Aldermen, submit the question to the people of the city as to whether or not the city shall acquire, own and operate any public utility.

In the City of New York the resolution of intention to buy must be adopted by the Board of Estimate and the Board of Aldermen concurrently.

Wilson Asks Law To Seize German Piers in Hoboken

Senate Committee Holds Up Request to Learn Reasons for Action

WASHINGTON, March 5.—Action on a request made by President Wilson to-day for legislation authorizing him to acquire for the government complete legal title to the German-owned piers of the North German Lloyd and Hamburg-American lines, at Hoboken, N. J., was postponed until to-morrow by the Senate Appropriations Committee because some of the members insisted upon knowing the reason for the proposed action.

Several Democratic and Republican Senators joined in opposition to granting the request until the Administration submits reasons for acquiring the extensive German properties, with an estimate of cost. Some members expressed fear that the step might commit the government to permanent shipping ownership and operation.

The President called Senator Martin, of Virginia, Democratic leader and chairman of the Appropriations Committee, to the White House early to-day and asked for the legislation. Later, he sent by a personal messenger the draft of an amendment to the billion dollar urgent deficiency appropriation bill authorizing acquisition of the docking facilities by condemnation or otherwise.

Enemy Property Safe for Present, Palmer Announces

WASHINGTON, March 5.—A. Mitchell Palmer, alien property custodian, in a statement issued to-day said there was no contemplation on the part of his office to sell enemy property in this country, except where concerns were being liquidated under license by the War Trade Board.

"Some misunderstanding seems to have arisen relative to the policy of this office in respect to sales of enemy property," he said. "A number of businesses operated in this country by persons coming within the enemy class or by partnerships in which a member is an enemy are being liquidated under licenses issued by the War Trade Board, under the supervision, management and control of the enemy alien property custodian."

"The property of such concerns is, of course, being sold. There are also in various parts of the country quantities of commodities which are enemy-owned and which may be sold to prevent waste. Outside of these cases, the alien property custodian does not now have in contemplation any sale of enemy property."

"It has been suggested that Congress may give the alien property custodian larger powers to dispose of enemy property. If such changes in the law are made the matter of sales of enemy property will then receive consideration."

An amendment to the pending urgent deficiency appropriation bill to give larger powers to the custodian for the disposition of property was offered in the Senate to-day.

invidious, but the following is his method of holding the mirror of our magazines up to themselves:

By Number of Distinctive Stories

1. Harper's Magazine.....	64
2. Saturday Evening Post.....	62
3. Scribner's Magazine.....	52
4. Collier's Weekly.....	51
5. Century Magazine.....	40
6. Bellman.....	34
7. Everybody's Magazine.....	26
8. Pictorial Review.....	26
9. American Magazine.....	25
10. New York Tribune.....	22
11. Smart Set.....	22
12. Reddy's Mirror.....	18
13. Delinquent.....	18
14. Every Week.....	18
15. Metropolitan Magazine.....	16
16. Good Housekeeping.....	12
17. Ladies' Home Journal.....	11
18. McClure's Magazine.....	9
19. Sunset Magazine.....	6

SILENCE

is

the

only newspaper

on the list!

The

above is a list by Mr. Edward J. O'Brien, author of "The

Best Short Stories of 1917," showing the number of short

stories of high literary distinction carried during the past year

by American periodicals.

According to Mr. O'Brien's critical summaries, The Tribune's

percentage of distinctive stories printed during 1917 was 73.

"Scribner's," "Harper's" and the "Century Magazine" only had

higher percentages.

This ranking was due to the publication in The Sunday

Tribune of short stories from the French and German, mostly from

the French, translated by Mr. William L. McPherson. Thirty-nine

of his translated stories were published last year in The Sunday

Tribune—but only thirty came to Mr. O'Brien's notice, and of these

twenty-two were included in the above honor list.

To bring the American public into touch with the work of the

present day brilliant French writers and to stimulate American

interest in the war-time literature of France have been the chief

objects of these translations. The Sunday Tribune will continue to

publish them. They are worth while, not only because they have

exceptional literary qualities, but because they vividly illuminate

the spirit in which the French people—behind the lines as well as

at the front—are reacting to the strain and sacrifice of the war.

Look for Mr. McPherson's translated story each week in The

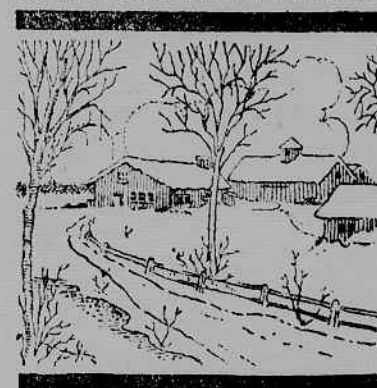
Sunday Tribune. You will find it the kind of reading you won't

want to miss.

THE SUNDAY TRIBUNE

for Good Reading!

farms and SUBURBAN HOMES



YOU will find some unusual real estate opportunities under the "Farms and Suburban Homes" heading on the Classified Advertising Pages of next Sunday's New York Tribune. Make it a point to look for these advertisements—you'll find them worth-while reading.

Kaiser Will Commit Suicide, Sunday Thinks

He Will Not Be Able to Look People in Eye After War, He Says

(Staff Correspondence)

CHICAGO, March 5.—Billy Sunday predicted to-day, just before the Manhattan Limited on the Pennsylvania Railroad stopped at Winona Lake to let him off, that if Germany loses in the war—Billy is sure she will—the Kaiser will commit suicide.

"The Kaiser never will be able to look honest people in the face after he loses the war, and he's sure to lose it," said Billy. "Judging from what he is reported saying, I believe that as soon as Germany is obliged to quit the Kaiser will commit suicide. Another thing, John Barleycorn is getting

ready to quit, too. Wouldn't it just

give every one a grand and glorious

feeling if Kaiser Bill Hohenzollern and

John Barleycorn both took the count

the same year?"

Because the engineers of the express,

"Silo" Craig, was kind enough to stop

at Winona Lake and let Billy off he

gave Craig and the fireman each a ten-

dollar bill, and told them that they

were "all right."

Henry Bauman, a private in Company

C, 47th Infantry, obtained a verdict for

\$75,000 in the Supreme Court yesterday

for the loss of his legs.

The defendant was the Norfolk &

Western Railway Company. Bauman

was on sentry duty in the Lüneburg,

Yan, yards of the company when he was

run over by a train. He sued for \$150,

000.